

A Word from the Clinic

The Bird Center of Michigan is in the midst of another intake record-breaking baby season! Dedicated interns and staff at the Bird Center are feeding nearly 200 baby birds every 30-45 minutes for up to 14 hours a day. Of our 200+ birds currently in care at the Center, we have had lots of rarities so far this season and some Bird Center firsts. Birds currently in care at the Center include baby Baltimore Orioles, Belted Kingfishers, a Blue-winged Teal, a Virginia Rail, a Spotted Sandpiper, and even a Yellow-throated Vireo!



In addition to enjoying the unique patients at the Center, we're excited about upgrades and flight cage additions! Boy Scout Shane Walton is completing his Eagle Scout project by transferring a flight cage from our former dedicated flight cage hosts Dick and Diana Dyer to the Center. In addition to the flight cage transfer on the property, Walton added an additional three feet of width to the enclosures, a removable divider to make the enclosure one large flight cage or two smaller flight cages, as well as soft-release doors! We are thrilled to be able to use these flight cages for years to come, with our first patients utilizing the space being five young kingfishers learning the ropes of being outdoors.

The Bird Center is continuing to make upgrades to the pole barn facility with the help of our generous donors, enhancing our capacity to accommodate more waterfowl patients and other birds at risk of avian flu. With the addition of incubators, additional enclosures, and dry brooder setups, we are able to provide a wider range of care than ever before to waterfowl and other species. The upgraded barn will soon feature four spacious indoor-outdoor waterfowl runs that will help us rehabilitate ducklings in the summer months and injured juvenile and adult waterfowl during the remainder of the year.

As the Bird Center of Michigan continues to grow, we are so grateful for the care and generosity of our volunteers and supporters. Thank you!

Marissa Jardine
Clinic Manager
Bird Center of Michigan

A Surprise of Six Kingfishers!



The Bird Center was recently surprised with not one, but six nestling Belted Kingfishers! All siblings from one nest, these young birds were discovered after their burrow nest was destroyed during a pond excavation. Kingfishers are prone to high levels of stress in rehabilitation settings and can be finicky with taking food. With this and their natural history in mind, we created artificial burrows for them while they were growing up in the incubator, and our dedicated staff made sure they got their fill of ocean perch, smelt, and other frozen fish varieties with supplements.

Sadly, one of the nestlings passed away after about a week in care. The remaining five are all in an outdoor flight cage learning how to feed on their own prior to release. Now that they've been moved outdoors they are eating almost entirely live fish, primarily fat-headed minnows and other native feeder fish. We are going through about 300 live fish every 2-3 days, so it's a significant expense! Your donations will help feed these gorgeous kingfishers the tasty, nutritious diet they need before being released back into the wild. We appreciate your support!

[Donate Here](#)

Advocacy in Action: Striking Back Against Bird/Window Strikes

Many factors contribute to the precipitous decline of bird populations. This month's *Advocacy in Action* focuses on bird strikes. A [March 2023 paper](#) has this stark summary: "Bird-window collisions (BWCs) are a major threat to avian populations, annually causing up to one billion bird deaths in the US alone and untold numbers of fatalities worldwide."

BCM has supported the efforts of [Washtenaw Safe Passage](#) which is affiliated with the Washtenaw Audubon Society. Washtenaw Safe Passage is bringing attention to the problem by collecting dead birds, recording data, and working with building managers to modify windows to prevent further deaths. Michigan Audubon has a [Safe Passage Great Lakes](#) program focused on reducing light pollution, especially during spring and fall migration to help protect the millions of birds who migrate through the Great Lakes.



Last month, a Detroit City Council member began the process of drafting a [Bird-Friendly Building Design Ordinance](#).

There are other recent efforts farther away, which indicate a growing concern about this human-caused destruction coupled with action to bring about change.

New York City's [Lights Out Coalition](#) (see their logo above) is a diverse alliance of 50 organizations and professionals dedicated to protecting New York's wildlife and impacting change to benefit the interconnectedness of animals, humans, and the environment. The coalition has been instrumental in getting a bill introduced in the New York City Council last month. [Intro 1039](#) would prohibit unnecessary nighttime illumination to help save the lives of hundreds of thousands of migratory birds who pass through New York City each year. This significantly expands a law passed in late 2021 that regulated lighting but applied only to city-owned buildings. The Bird Center's board voted unanimously to sign on to a letter drafted by Lights Out Coalition to add our support for Intro 1039.

Harvard Law School's Animal & Policy Clinic [submitted a bird-safe policy proposal](#) dated June 14, 2023, to the University's Chief Sustainability Officer urging the incorporation of bird-safe measures into its Sustainability Action Plan and to commit to "formal monitoring of existing bird hazards on campus, for the safety of the birds and the sustainability of our campus."

Earlier this month, the bi-partisan [Bird-Safe Building Act was re-introduced in Congress](#). It's too new to even have a bill number yet. Stay tuned for more information about this bill and how you can support it.

Meet our Team

We would like to introduce our wonderful clinic staff at the Bird Center this season! Pictured from left to right we have rehab assistants Sarah, Maria, Zach, and Ena - and last but definitely not least - we have assistant manager Katie. Staff members help assist the public with injured and orphaned birds, rehab birds in care, and help supervise interns and volunteers. We are very grateful for their help and dedication to the birds!



Pileated Woodpecker Makes Progress

This Pileated Woodpecker was admitted to the Bird Center with spinal trauma following a collision, possibly with the ground after falling out of her nest. On arrival, she had little feeling in her legs and was unable to use them to perch vertically, making life especially difficult for this stunning young woodpecker.

A \$5 donation could provide a tasty, nutritious meal for this beautiful bird while she heals from her injuries. Did you know that our dedicated team of staff, interns, and volunteers care for our patients for 14 hours a day, seven days a week, with most babies being fed every 30 minutes?

Your generous donations will allow us to continue providing optimal care for this Pileated Woodpecker and the hundreds of injured and orphaned patients currently healing at the Bird Center.

We're seeing some slow but sure progress in this gal's ability to use her legs, and she is now able to perch vertically for feedings. She is taking her meals great at each feeding, and she particularly loves her superworms!

We (and the birds) are grateful for your support!



Outdoor Clean-up

The Bird Center recently held a big two-day yard cleanup! With much help from Joyce and Tom Janicki, Bev and Beau Prenevost, and a Kubota, we were able to cut down damaged tree limbs, clear years' worth of yard brush piles, pull out the old chicken yard fence, move the coop, help maintain the pollinator gardens and spread 14 yards of driveway stone. It was a good start with always more to do!



Best Wishes, Katie!

Our incredibly talented assistant manager Katie will be heading off to veterinary school in August! Starting as an intern at the Bird Center in May of 2020, Katie was accepted into Tufts University's Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine in Massachusetts, where she plans to continue her work with wildlife in the veterinary medicine field. She was recently accepted into a veterinary study abroad program in Costa Rica, allowing her to gain six weeks of experience with local spay and neuter campaigns, sea turtle research and rehab, dolphin research, Costa Rican wildlife rehab, as well as shelter medicine at the [Land of the Strays](#).

Our clinic manager Marissa says, "It's been amazing to watch Katie grow from when she first started as an intern all the way to now as an assistant manager of the Bird Center. Her dedication to animals is evident in all she does, from the extra hours she puts in making sure everyone is cared for to the best of her ability, to researching the latest in avian medicine and the newest information in the rehab field. It's been a joy working alongside her these past three years, and I can't wait to see what more amazing things she does in her future as she goes through veterinary school and becomes a wildlife veterinarian."

Congratulations and best wishes, Katie! We can't wait to see where this next career adventure takes you!



Cardinal Off to a Rough Start



This nestling Northern Cardinal has had a rough start in life, but our devoted staff is doing everything they can to get this little one back on the right track! Brought to the Bird Center after being fed an inappropriate diet for a week, this cardinal is now unable to use her foot properly due to malnutrition.

Assistant Manager Katie carefully crafted a boot for the cardinal's foot to help correct her misshapen toes, and she is now being fed a nutritious diet appropriate for

Northern Cardinals. If you find an orphaned baby bird, it's imperative that you DO NOT

offer the bird food or water. Contact a licensed wildlife rehabilitator immediately for guidance from a trained professional.

We're hopeful that, with care from our incredible staff, this young cardinal will be able to grow up and fly free in the wild. Your donations will help us provide optimal care for this sweet cardinal and the 1500+ birds that will receive critical treatment and rehabilitation at the BCM this season!

[Donate Here](#)

Contact Info

For bird-related questions or emergencies, contact our rehabilitation clinic by phone:

Clinic Phone: 734.761.9640

For donations, sponsorships, or business-related concerns, contact our administration email:

admin@birdcentermi.org

For volunteer opportunities, contact our volunteer email:

volunteer@birdcentermi.org



To check on a bird you rescued, please email intakes@birdcentermi.org with the bird's ID number and date of rescue.

For a list of licensed wildlife rehabilitators in Michigan, please visit the Michigan DNR Website: <https://www2.dnr.state.mi.us/dlr/>

One last thing...

As we enjoy the flashing colors and thunderous explosions of fireworks, it's easy to overlook their impact on the wildlife around us. Humans know what to expect, but wildlife doesn't. As Independence Day approaches, please think twice about the impacts your celebration may have on the people, animals, and habitats around you.

Your dog isn't the only one upset by fireworks.



The panic brought on by fireworks can cause wildlife moms to abandon their babies and be too disoriented to find their way home.

Squirrels, small mammals, birds and butterflies have been known to exhibit detrimental, even life threatening behavior as a result of fireworks, while waterbirds and fish perish after ingesting fireworks' debris.

This summer, celebrate in a way that does no harm.

Celebrate without fireworks.

babywildTV.com

We appreciate your support!



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Donate: birdcentermi.org/donate

